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A . S .   H E B B L E T H W A I T E ,   M . C . ,   M . B . ,   C h . B . ,   D . P . H . ,

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H   F O R   T H E   P O R T   A N D   B O R O U G H   O F   S U N D E R L A N D .

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## SUNDERLAND PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

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 COMMITTEE

The Right Worshipful The Mayor

Alderman Mrs. J. Huggins, J.P.

Alderman J. Cohen, O.B.E., J.P., Chairman.

Alderman Miss E.E. Blacklock, Vice-Chairman.

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Alderman M.E. English.

" J. Hoy, M.B.E., B.E.M., J.P.

" E. Johnston, J.P.

" W. Miller.

Councillor Mrs. M.S. Barry.

" T.M. Carr.

" C.J. Devine.

" R.W. Fitzakerly.

" R. Graham.

" T. Greenman.

" Miss L. Hill.

Councillor W.N. Jackson.

" Mrs. J. Ledger.

" J.T. McGeorge.

" C. Paull.

" J.H. Redfearn.

" J.A. Smith.

" J. Starkey.

" L. Watson.

" R.T. Weston, M.B.E.

" J.W.P. Wilkinson.

" Mrs. M.R. Young.

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CO-OPTED MEMBERS.

Alderman Mrs. K. Cohen.

Councillor W. Wilson.

Dr. P. Hickey.

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Meetings : Monthly, on Wednesday, in the second week preceding that in which the Council meets at 4.0 p.m. Offices of the Port Medical Officer of Health and Port Sanitary Inspector : Corporation Quay, Sunderland. Office Tel. No. Sunderland 56178.

## SUNDERLAND PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

## ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

## FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 1954.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the County Borough of Sunderland, acting as the Port Health Authority of the Port of Sunderland.

The Annual Report for the Port of Sunderland for 1954 is presented in the form indicated in Circular 21/53 from the Ministry of Health : the Report is also in accordance with Circular 33/52 and Form Port 20.

As there have been no changes in certain tables contained in the 1952 Report, these have by request been omitted (reference form Port 20).

A short survey has been made with respect to Deratting on vessels since 1926. This is tabulated below :-

PORT OF SUNDERLAND.

1. Deratisation Certificates - 401 (1926 to 1954).

Deratisation Exemption Certificates - 2,177 (from 1926 to 1954).

Ratio of Deratting Exemption Certificates to Deratting Certificates being 5.43 to 1.

2. Major infestations of foreign going vessels are now uncommon.
3. Rat destruction commenced in the early days by trapping and was followed by S.O.2. made by burning rock sulphur. This was superseded by H.C.N., and lately permission has been obtained for the use of 1080.
4. British built ships are now almost completely rat-proof and builders are amenable to any suggestions. Foreign built vessels; as a rule, or British built vessels for foreign owners, are not so completely rat-proof, as specifications require steam pipes and other entrances to compartments not amenable to rat-proofing.
5. There would appear to be a decline in the arrival and despatch of foreign going vessels from this port.

ILLEGAL BOARDING OF SHIPS

There were no prosecutions during the year as a result of illegal boarding of ships.

I wish to record my thanks for the valuable and willing assistance given to the Port Health Authority by H.M. Collector of Customs and his Staff, the Officers of the River Wear Commissioners, H.M. Coastguard, Sunderland Pilotage Authority, River Wear Police, Shipping Agents, and to Messrs. France Fenwick's Towing Department by assisting officers in the boarding of ships in the dock.

A.S. HEBBLETHWAITE

Port Medical Officer of Health,

March 1955.



SECTION I - STAFF.TABLE A.

Name of Officer, Qualifications, and Nature of Appointment.	Date of Appointment.	Any other appointments held.
G.S. McIntire, C.B.E., M.A., LLB., Solicitor, Clerk to the Authority.	1.9.32.	Town Clerk, Clerk of Peace of Sunderland.
A.S. Hebblethwaite, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Port Medical Officer of Health	1.6.27.	Medical Officer of Health. School Medical Officer.
R.S. Thubron, M.B., B.S., D.O.M.S., Deputy Port Medical Officer of Health.	14.2.51.	General Practice. Admiralty Surgeon and Agent.
C.C. Pickering, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Meat & Other Foods. Chief Port Inspector.	1.2.45.	None.
Assistant Port Inspector.	Position vacant from 1.1.53.	-----
C.T. Cawthorne, Official Rodent Operator.	27.9.47	None.
C.R. Hicks, C.I.S. Prelim. Cert. Clerk.	30.7.48	None.

Address and Telephone Number of  
the Medical Officer of Health }

Health Department, "Thornholme",  
Thornholme Road, Sunderland.

Telephone Number - Sunderland 56201.  
Ext. 91.

Private Residence :

Telephone Number - Sunderland 3437.

Private address and Telephone  
number of Chief Port Health  
Inspector }

9 Claremont Road, Roker, Sunderland.

Telephone Number - Sunderland 3031.

Port Health Authority, Corporation Quay, Sunderland. Telephone Number - Sunderland  
56178.

## SECTION II - AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B.

Ships From	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5
Foreign Ports.	264	322,078	22	224	5
Coastwise	1,901	1,425,621	14	1,269	1
	2,165	1,747,699	36	1,493	6

Note : The figures given in columns 1 and 2 are supplied by the courtesy of H.M. Collector of Customs and Excise, Sunderland.

The figure of 224 in column 4 relates to ships direct from foreign ports and the figure of 1,269 for Coastwise shipping includes 272 vessels which had proceeded from foreign ports and called at another United Kingdom Port before arriving in this port.

## SECTION III - CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR 1954.

TABLE C.

Passenger Traffic	:	Total number of Alien passengers	-	Landed	19
				Embarked	49
		Total number of British passengers	-	Landed	31
				Embarked	45
		Number of Alien Seamen under Contract to join ships in British waters			Nil
		Stowaways - (Alien nil. British 2)			2
		Total number of passengers	-	Landed	52
				Embarked	<u>94</u>
					146

N.B. In addition there were 60 alien supernumeraries who were permitted temporary shore leave.

The above figures were supplied by the courtesy of the Chief H.M. Immigration Officer, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Cargo Traffic : Principal Imports :

Petroleum in Bulk	172,071 tons
Cement	63,900 "
Sundries	45,518 "
Props	16,605 "
Esparto	14,322 "
Timber	9,741 "
Wood pulp	6,700 "
Sugar	2,105 "

TOTAL : 330,962 tons.

Principal Exports

Petroleum & Benzole	38,477 Tons
Machinery	9,864 "
Grain	7,544 "
Sundries	7,527 "

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TOTAL : 63,412 tons.

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During the year 1954, the total number of vessels cleared from the Port was 2,234, a decrease of 188 vessels on that of the previous year.

Those engaged in the Coasting Trade number 1,708, and in the European Trade 462, whilst 64 were trading beyond Europe.

The registered tonnage of vessels amounts to 1,901,173 registered tons, compared with 1,929,413 registered tons in 1953, a decrease of 28,240 registered tons.

Figures relative to the Trade of the Port were kindly supplied by the courtesy of Mr. A.H.J. Bown, General Manager and Clerk to the River Wear Commissioners.

Foreign Ports from which vessels arrived  
during the year 1954.

<u>Aden Colony (British)</u>	Aden
<u>Africa (French Equatorial)</u>	Libreville.
<u>Algeria</u>	Algiers, Arzew, Benisaf, Bona, Djidjelli, Nemours, Oran, Port Breira.
<u>Argentina</u>	Buenos Aires, Rosario.
<u>Australia</u>	Albany, Fremantle, Geelong, Geraldton, Port Pirie.
<u>Bahrein Island (British)</u>	
<u>Belgium</u>	Antwerp, Brussels, Bruges, Ghent, Ostend, Zeebrugge.
<u>Bermuda</u>	St. George
<u>Brazil</u>	Victoria
<u>British Guiana</u>	Demerara.
<u>Bulgaria</u>	Bourgas.



<u>Cambria</u>	Kaur
<u>Cameroons</u>	Duala
<u>Canada</u>	Bridgewater, Clarke City, Montreal, St. John N.B., Sorel, Sydney N.S., Vancouver B.C.
<u>Canary Islands (Spanish)</u>	Las Palmas
<u>Ceylon</u>	Colombo
<u>Colombia</u>	Rio Hacha
<u>Corsica</u>	Bastia
<u>Denmark</u>	Aabenraa, Aalborg, Aarhus, Copenhagen, Esbjerg, Korsor, Lemvig, Norresundby, Odense, Struer, Sundby, Svendborg, Vejle.
<u>Dominican Republic</u>	Macoris
<u>Egypt</u>	Alexandria, Suez.
<u>Finland</u>	Hamina, Hakkila, Helsinki, Jacobstad, Kasko, Kemi, Kotka, Kristinestad, Mantyluoto, Oulu, Raumo, Toppila, Vasa, Veitsiluoto, Yxpila.
<u>France</u>	Bordeaux, Boulogne, Cherbourg, Dunkirk, Granville, Honfleur, La Pallice, Le Havre, Marseilles, Nice, Paris, Roscoff, Rouen, Sete, St. Valery sur Somme.
<u>Gambia</u>	Bathurst
<u>Germany</u>	Bremen, Brake, Cuxhaven, Emden, Hamburg, Husum, Kiel, Nordenham, Wismar.
<u>Gibraltar</u>	
<u>Gold Coast</u>	Takoradi
<u>Greece</u>	Piraeus, Straton.
<u>Holland</u>	Delfzyl, Dordrecht, Groningen, Harlingen, Maassluis, Rotterdam, Terneuzen, Ymuiden.
<u>India</u>	Bombay.
<u>Israel</u>	Haifa, Jaffa.
<u>Italy</u>	Falconara, Genoa, Leghorn, Salerno, Savona
<u>Italy (Sardinia)</u>	Cagliari
<u>Italy (Sicily)</u>	Palermo, Licata.

<u>Ivory Coast</u>	Abidjan.
<u>Japan</u>	Yokohama
<u>Kenya</u>	Mombasa
<u>Kuwait</u>	Mena-al-Ahmadi
<u>Lebanon</u>	Tripoli
<u>Libya</u>	Benghazi, Tripoli.
<u>Madeira Island</u>	Funchal.
<u>Malaya</u>	Pulo Bukom.
<u>Malta Island (British)</u>	Valletta.
<u>Mauritius Island (British)</u>	Port Louis
<u>Mocambique</u>	Beira, Lourenco Marques.
<u>Morocco (French Zone)</u>	Casablanca
<u>Morocco (Spanish)</u>	Ceuta
<u>Norway</u>	Arendal, Ballangen, Bergen, Drammen, Halden, Haugesund, Kragero, Kristiansand, Kristiansund, Narvik, Oplo, Oslo, Porsgrunn, Sagvaag, Sande, Sandefjord, Sarpsborg, Skien, Trondheim.
<u>New Zealand</u>	Auckland.
<u>Oman</u>	Umm Said
<u>Pakistan</u>	Karachi
<u>Poland</u>	Gdynia, Szczecin.
<u>Panama</u>	Balboa, Colon.
<u>Portugal</u>	Leixoes, Lisbon, Oporto.
<u>Spain</u>	Almeria, Barcelona, Bilbao, Cadiz, Corunna, Huelva, La Calera, Santander, Sagunto, Valencia, Vivero.

Sweden

Blankaholm, Burea, Falkenberg, Gamleby, Gefle,  
 Gothenborg, Gruvon, Halmstad, Helsingborg,  
 Holmsund, Husum, Karlshamn, Karlskrona, Karlstad,  
 Kristinehamn, Lysekil, Malmo, Norrkoping,  
 Norrtelje, Nykoping, Ornskoldsvik, Oxelosund,  
 Otterbacken, Sikea, Skelleftea, Stockholm,  
 Sundsvall, Ulfvik, Westervik, Ystad.

Syria

Banias

Tanganyika

Dar-es-Salaam.

Tunisia

Sfax, Susa.

Turkey

Iskenderun, Istanbul.

Union of South Africa

Durban.

Uruguay

Montevideo.

U.S.A.

Destrehan L.A., Freeport (Texas) Galveston  
 (Texas), Newport News V.A.

U.S.S.R.

Archangel, Igarka, Leningrad, Mesane, Murmansk,  
 Poti.

Venezuela

Curacao Island (Dutch)

Yugo Slavia

Luka Kardeljevo, Pula, Rasa, Sibenik, Split.

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SECTION IV - INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

Not applicable to this Port.

The following figures show the number of vessels of each Nationality inspected :-

British .....	1,172.
Union of South Africa .....	2
Belgian .....	1
Costa Rican .....	4
Danish .....	25
Dutch .....	86
Finnish .....	14
French .....	3
German .....	62
Greek .....	1
Honduras .....	1
Italian .....	3
Liberian .....	6
Norwegian .....	37
Panamanian .....	13
Polish .....	2
Portuguese .....	1
Spanish .....	6
Swedish .....	42
Singapore Colony .....	1
Swiss .....	1
Turkish .....	3
Yugo Slavian .....	7

TOTAL :	<u>1,493.</u>
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SECTION V.Summary of Water Samples taken during the year. 1954.

Source of samples of water submitted for Bacteriological Examination.	Chemical Analysis.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Suspicious	Total number of samples taken.
Water Boat, "Olive Branch II"	Nil	5	Nil	Nil	5
Water Hydrants	Nil	8	2	Nil	10
Vessels	Nil	5	Nil	Nil	5
Tugboats	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTALS :	Nil	18	2	Nil	20

SECTION VI.

NO CHANGE.

SECTION VII.Smallpox.

1. The smallpox hospital is the Langley Park Hospital, Langley Park, near Durham City, telephone number Langley Park 214. Admission arrangements to be made direct with Matron of the Chester-le-Street Isolation Hospital, (telephone number Chester-le-Street 3207). The Medical Officer-in-Charge is Dr. Gavin Miller, whose private telephone number is Sacriston 232.
2. Transport facilities are provided by the Ambulance Service, Sunderland Corporation. All drivers have been recently vaccinated.
3. Smallpox Consultant to this Authority is Dr. Eustace Thorp, residing at 115, The Broadway, Grindon, Sunderland, and his private telephone number is Sunderland 6506.
4. The Public Health Laboratory Service is situated at Hylton Road, Sunderland.



SECTION VIII - VENEREAL DISEASE.

Total number of Seamen treated at V.D. Clinics,  
Royal Infirmary, during the year 1954.

BRITISH	Total	FOREIGN	Total
Syphilis.....	3	Syphilis .....	2
Soft Chancre .....	-	Soft Chancre .....	-
Gonorrhoea .....	30	Gonorrhoea .....	12
Syphilis & Gonorrhoea .....	1	Syphilis & Gonorrhoea .....	-
Not Venereal Disease .....	36	Not Venereal Disease .....	21
Urethritis .....	40	Urethritis .....	14
TOTAL :	110	TOTAL :	49

SECTION IX -CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS.TABLE 'D'

CATEGORY	DISEASE	Number of Cases During the Year		Number of Ships Concerned.
		Passengers.	Crew.	
Cases landed from Ships from Foreign Ports.	Malaria	1	5	3
	Tubercu- osis	Nil	1	1
Cases which have occurred on ships from Foreign Ports but which have been disposed of before arrival.	Malaria	Nil	4	4
Cases landed from other Ships.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No case of quarantinable disease was reported during the year under review.

SECTION X.OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA ON SHIPS

During the year under review, six cases of malaria were observed on three ships.

1. A lady passenger on board a Union Castle Liner from East Africa. She had been treated on board.
2. Four members of the crew of a Swedish ship which arrived in October 1954 from North and West African Ports (the last being Duala and Dakar) were reported to be suffering from influenza, for which they had been treated by Penicillin. They were vomiting, fevered and obviously ill. Malaria was suspected, Penicillin stopped, the blood examined and quinine administered. The blood picture showed Malignant Tertian Malaria, three of them primary and one a recurrence. All recovered while the ship was in Port.
3. A member of a crew of a ship from a Spanish Port was landed and taken to hospital.
4. The remaining four cases were members of the crews of ships who had been treated on the voyage and disposed of before arrival.

SECTION XI.MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS WITH, OR SUSPECTED OF, PLAGUE

In ships in the Port, on all vessels, whether in possession of a valid Deratting Certificate or Deratting "Exemption" Certificate or not, enquiries are made as to the prevalence and mortality of rats on board, and systematic inspection is carried out by the Authority's rodent operator on all vessels arriving directly or otherwise from infected ports; also on vessels engaged in carrying grain and general cargo. Enquiries are made on all vessels from members of the crew, stevedores and workmen, and where necessary a systematic search for excreta, nests, gnawings, runs or damage to cargo or stores is made by the Authority's Rodent Operator under the supervision of an Inspector. Apart from the additional measures as defined in the Fourth Schedule, Part I - Plague A, infected ships and suspected ships in the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952, which would be rigidly enforced the following would also be put into operation, i.e. all vessels from infected or suspected areas and all vessels carrying grain cargoes are required to place efficient rat guards on all mooring ropes. Where the supply of rat guards is insufficient, the mooring ropes are to be covered daily with fresh tar for a distance of three feet from the edge of the quay outwards.

SECTION XIIMEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

1. As soon as practicable after arrival such ships are systematically searched by the Authority's Rodent Operator under the supervision of an Inspector. All possible harbourages are carefully noted, also damage to cargo and stores, if any, paying particular attention to excreta, gnawings, runs and sneaks. From stem to stern every compartment is minutely inspected including stowholds, shaft tunnel and boiler tops, which often reveal evidence of infestation by the amount of footings seen in the fine dust which is always present there; and it rests entirely upon the result of such inspections as to whether the vessel is granted an Exemption Certificate or Deratting measures have to be employed; and only by such careful inspections can the rat population be approximately assessed.
2. All rats submitted for bacteriological or pathological examination from such vessels are forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Havelock Hospital, Hylton Road, Sunderland.



### 3. Methods of Deratting - Ships

(i) Fumigation by sulphur dioxide gas, which is generated by burning sulphur, three pounds of sulphur to each thousand cu.ft. of space; minimum time of exposure - eight hours.

(ii) Hydrogen cyanide, which is generated by the vapourisation of liquid hydrogen cyanide, two ounces per thousand cubic feet for cargo space and storerooms; one ounce per thousand cubic feet for living quarters and other places not used for stores or cargo; minimum time of exposure - two hours.

(iii) Trapping and laying of poison baits.

Fumigations are done by commercial contractors whose staffs are trained to comply with the Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation of Ships) Regulations, 1951.

4. When vessels are examined for the purpose of issuing Deratting or Deratting "Exemption" Certificates, any harbourages, runs, gnawings, defective bulkheads, giving access to stores etc., are brought to the notice of the Master or owner and practical suggestions made for remedying the same. Particular attention is given to new vessels and wherever it is necessary instructions are given to see that all pipes entering compartments are effectively fitted with collars, and steel flashings are fitted in places where rodents may possibly enter, to eliminate any possible source of nesting. Drainage holes in the holds are given careful attention, as these may be of a nature and size to afford easy ingress and provide a means of future infestation. On new vessels the builders have been found to be most co-operative when such defects have been drawn to their attention and in the majority of cases the work has been done before a Deratting "Exemption" Certificate has been issued.

TABLE E.

#### RODENTS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

CATEGORY	NUMBER
Black Rats .....	14
Brown Rates .....	Nil
Mice .....	Nil
Species Not known .....	Nil
Sent for Examination .....	Nil
Infected with Plague .....	Nil

In addition, 27 black rats were destroyed on ships from Foreign Ports which had called at another Port in the United Kingdom before arriving at this Port.

3 black rats and 1 brown rat were destroyed on Coasting Vessels, making a total of 45 rats destroyed on all types of vessels. Four black rats trapped on board one vessel were submitted for Pathological examination - "Bacillus Pestis not Present".

The following table shows the work of Deratting in connection with Wharves, Quays and Warehouses :-

Brown Rats destroyed .....	1,183.
Black Rats destroyed .....	8
Mice destroyed .....	74

In addition 2,810 poison baits were laid.

TABLE 'F'

DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING  
EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING  
THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

No. of Deratting Certificates Issued.					Number of Deratting Exemption Certific- ates issued	Total Number of Certificates Issued
After Fumigation With H.C.N.	Other Fumigant (state method)	After Trapping	After Poisoning	Total		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
6	Nil	Nil	Nil	6.	84	90

Included in the number of Deratting "Exemption" Certificates issued are 25 Deratting "Exemption" Certificates issued with respect to vessels constructed at this Port.

The above figures include 5 Deratting "Exemption" Certificates issued with respect to five vessels lying at the Port of Seaham Harbour.

Under the prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951, 39 Rodent Control Certificates were issued.

SECTION XIIIInspection of Ships for NuisancesTable 'G'Inspection and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections	<u>Notices Served</u>		Result of Serving Notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
1. 1,493 vessels. Inspected by Sanitary Inspector	Nil	106 verbal. 2 written.	101 vessels complied with. 5 vessels partially completed. 2 vessels not complied with before sailing.
2. Category of Nuisances.	-	-	The nature of the nuisance consisted mainly of fresh water tanks to cleanse, accommodation to cleanse, defective portlights, dirty bedding and verminous accommodation etc.

Out of the total of 108 vessels found to be insanitary, 25 were "foreign owned".

FOOD INSPECTIONSHIPS' PROVISIONS DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR 1954.

Number of vessels concerned.	Provisions totally destroyed	Utilised for animal feeding purposes	Salvaged.	Forwarded to Messrs. Spiller and Messrs. Hindhaugh, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
22	15 cwts. 3 qtrs. 18½ lbs.	3 tons 20¼ lbs.	7 cwts. 18 lbs.	3 tons 12 cwts. 2 qtrs. 9 lbs.
Grand total of Ships provisions dealt with : 7 tons, 15 cwts. 3 qtrs. 9¾ lbs.				

7 vessels arrived in the Port with cargoes of foodstuffs to discharge during the year under review.



17.

SECTION XIV.

NO CHANGE.

SECTION XV.

NO CHANGE.

SECTION XVI.

NO CHANGE.

